several of them could be brought into one field under a low power. With a Beck's ¼ objective and A eyepiece some of them had both ends out of the field.—J. M. C.

The Flora of Madagascar.—Madagascar is wonderfully rich in its display of all kinds of life and its natural history has just been considered in some interesting papers published by Mr. J. G. Baker in the *Journal of Botany*. As Prof. Bessey says, this island is only a little more than three-fourths the size of the State of Texas and yet the number of species of flowering plants alone is estimated at from four to five thousand.

Mr. Baker closes his paper with the following summary of the leading characteristics of the Madagascar flora:—

1. The flora of the tropical zone throughout the world is remarkably homogeneous in its general character, and to this general rule Madagascar furnishes no marked exception. There is no well-marked plant type largely developed in the island which is not found elsewhere, and none absent that one might, *a priori*, expect.

2. About one in nine of the genera are endemic, but they are all small genera, mostly belonging to the large natural orders and closely allied to cosmopolitan generic types.

3. There is a close affinity between the tropical flora of Madagascar and that of the smaller islands of the Mascarene group.

4. There is a close affinity between the tropical flora of Madagascar and that of the African continent.

5. There are a few curious cases in which Asiatic types which do not occur in Africa are met with in Madagascar, but these bear a very small numerical proportion to the great mass of the flora.

6. There is a distinct affinity between the flora of the hill-country of Central Madagascar and those of the Cape and the mountain-ranges of Central Africa.

Epiphegus Virginiana.—The *Epiphegus Virginiana* exhibits an entirely different form of parasitic growth from those plants having haustoria or sucking roots The beech root (on which it grows) on being touched by the parasite, sends a branch, or branch-like growth into the latter, through which all its nourishment is carried, causing the death of the root from this point to its end, if not too large, while that above flourishes despite the drain of the parasite. If, however, the root is larger, and there is substance enough after the parasite is supplied, it will live, but will be retarded in its growth.—S. T. Fergus, *West Chester*, *Pa*.

Phytolacca decandra L. A prolific case.—In an article in the July Number of the *American Naturalist*, I instanced our Eastern snow bird finding a cache of Pokewort seeds in a deep bank of snow by my garden fence. How the plant got there I do not know, but because of its elegance it was allowed to retain its place. This summer it has attained proportions which exceed anything I have ever seen. The plant threw out ten stems. Nine of these averaged ten